

**City of Minneapolis
Senior Citizen Advisory Committee**

October 13, 2011

Minutes

Patrick Rowan opened the meeting at 1:37 pm in room 333 City Hall.
Committee has quorum with 14 of its 21 members present.

Present

Lisa Abicht-Swensen, Rita Deyo, Rosemarie "Sully" Gilbert, Elana Gravitz, Jean Greener, Fay Harrison, Marci Holley Bartlett, Marilyn Holm, Thomas Leavey, Georgia Marinkov-Omorean, Roland Minda, Herb Nelson, Ray Olson, Patrick Rowan

MDHFS Staff

Ruth Kildow, Becky McIntosh, Kim Stringfellow

NCR Staff

Billie Imhoede, Access and Outreach Specialist

Absent

Dr. Lawrence Kerzner

Excused Absence

James Adams, Frank Broderick, Terry Diebold, Jeanne Hanson, Joanna Lees, Dorothy Robinson

Minutes and Agenda

Motion was made to approve the September 8, 2011 minutes and October 13, 2011 agenda. Request to change the minutes: Marci Holley Bartlett from absent to excused absence. With no further discussion and all approved, the motion carried.

Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10

Fire and Police pension bonds will be paid off by the end of 2012; saving the City of Minneapolis \$45M of avoided interest expense for the period of 2013-2026. The mayor has proposed a 0% increase on property tax for the 2012 budget. Public hearings have been scheduled for Nov 30, and Dec 14 before the council meeting at 6:05 pm. See <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/> for updated dates and times. SCAC members were urged to send committee priorities to their respective council members before November. The most expensive budget line-item is employee healthcare benefit cost. Last year city departments saw a 10% savings because of LGA funding received. At the end of 2011, LGA funding fell short and subsequently removed any savings to departments. The Target Center debt does not include improvements, only the original debt from when the City took over the facility, and the portion of the revenue from the recertified Tax Increment Fund (TIF) districts that goes toward Target Center debt will not have fully paid off the debt when the TIF districts expire.

Committee Priorities – Jeanne Hanson

The committee will hold a formal process to vote on priorities in November. Patrick Rowan will write a letter to City Council on behalf of SCAC. Please send your comments to Patrick ASAP. Roland Minda and Jean Greener volunteered to read the letter at one of the public hearings.

Old/New Business

None

Committee Reports

Health – Lisa Abicht-Swensen

- It is important for seniors to understand how Medicare/Medicaid pays for hospitalization. Hospitals are more frequently keeping patients for observation, for up to 72 hours, rather than admitting them, and this observation period is not included as part of the three-day qualifying hospital stay to be eligible for Medicare payment. A Long Term Care Counseling brochure is available from the Senior Linkage Line.
- Medicare rate cuts will be effective 1/1/2012, and will highly impact nursing homes.
- Individuals with physical disabilities will be provided with a Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC) plan, and HMO's will be creating/strengthening their case management. Support that has been available in the past is gone, and it will be even more important for daily self-care. This means: no skipping medications, meals or doctor visits; and exercise every day.

The primary reason for hospital visits is from failing to follow medication regiment. Doctors and pharmacists should be informed of all medications, prescription and over the counter, to catch any interactions.

Legislative – Jean Greener

- January 24 will begin the 2012 legislative session. Jean urged members to contact their representatives from now through mid-January and tell them what is working well, and what changes want to be made (think big). They are not always aware of how changes affect seniors, especially Medicare and Medicaid cuts. Attending neighborhood meetings will also have an impact.
- Effective October 3, 2011 Minnesota state law will change regarding senior housing or nursing home care. The state is still making adjustments. A verification code for any subsidized or assisted living is required, even if financial counseling is refused. The state thinks older adults are spending down their money in order to get the state to pay for their care, and they are doing a five-year look-back. There is a statewide database that has all names and keeps verification codes. Jean will provide a full report at the November meeting, or will send the information if unable to attend. The committee has requested to invite a speaker with information on long term care.

Senior Ombudsman – Ruth Kildow

- CPED would like to talk with the committee about Peavey Plaza at the November meeting.

Announcements

- There will be a caregiving exhibit in the gallery across from the Park Café, located in the tunnel between City Hall and Hennepin County Government Center.
- The Metro wide MAAA will be hosting “Matter of Balance,” which will meet for eight, two-hour sessions. Volunteers for needed for the “train the trainer” session. Marci Holley Bartlett has volunteered.
- Nokomis Healthy Seniors will have its 4th Annual Fall Frolic on October 15 from 9:00-3:00 pm, located at the Bethel Lutheran Church. Call 612-729-5499 for more information.
- Minneapolis Connects is involved in the One Minneapolis One Read and would like to have senior involvement. Discussion sessions for “The Grace of Silence” will be held from 2:00-3:30 pm on November 12, December 10 and January 7.
- A funeral was held for Herb Nelson’s wife.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Next Meeting

November 10, 2011, 1:00-2:30 pm, 333 City Hall

Minutes submitted by Kim Stringfellow.